



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The Convento Vecchio Thermal baths

The Convento Vecchio Thermal Baths, located on the eastern coast towards the Gulf of Oristano (figs. 1-3) probably take their name from the use of structures in the Late-ancient era as the site of a small convent for monks, the only evidence of which may be a Byzantine era tomb found in the *apodyterium* (fig. 4).



**Fig. 1** - Location of the Convento Vecchio thermal baths (from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)



**Fig. 2** - The Convento Vecchio thermal baths (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



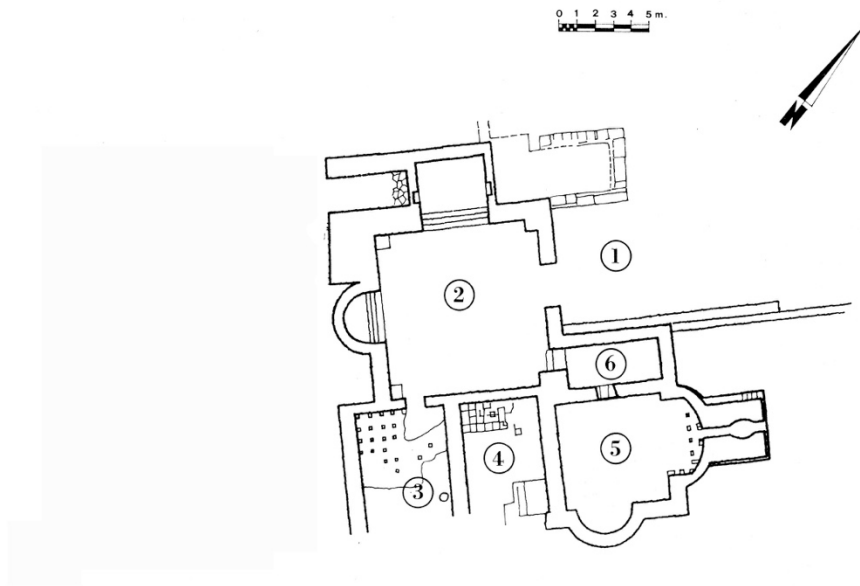
**Fig. 3** - The Convento Vecchio thermal baths (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 4** - The Byzantine tomb, incorporated into a modern concrete structure, inside the thermal baths *apodyterium* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The thermal baths have an internal route organized in the conventional manner (fig. 5).





**Fig. 5** - Map of the Thermal baths: 1) *apodyterium*, 2) *frigidarium*, 3-5) *calidaria*, 6) passageway (from ZUCCA 1984 page 85).

From the large *apodyterium* (fig. 6) one moves into the *frigidarium*, with two small tubs, one semi-circular one and the other rectangular (figs. 7-8).



**Fig. 6** - *Apodyterium* bench, with the locker for holding clothes (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 7** - Rectangular tub in the *frigidarium* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 8** - Semi-circular tub in the *frigidarium* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The heated rooms were reached through here, on the eastern side of the building. Unfortunately, the erosive action of the sea caused the land that this part of the building stood on to deteriorate, and thus it collapsed, therefore reconstruction cannot be made in detail. It is certain that there were three adjacent rooms, one of which still has a *praeefurnium* (figs. 9-10).



**Fig. 9** - External part of a heated room, with the staircase to access the cisterns above the building roof (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 10** - *Praefurnium* of a heated room (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The route then led back to the *frigidarium* via a small room to be passed through. A large cistern for water was located in the south-west part of the *frigidarium*, but only the base that stood on the floor of the room remains.

The Thermal baths can be dated thanks to a small excavation, the building technique used, the remains of the mosaic in the *frigidarium*. Everyone agrees on the date of the construction between the 2nd and 3rd century A.D.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

## ■ Bibliography

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